

Congressman

BOB CLEMENT

KEEPING IN TOUCH



5th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT • TENNESSEE

SPRING 2002

Dear Friend,

As part of my commitment to regular communication and outreach, I hope you will find this printing of my *Keeping In Touch* newsletter informative and useful. Much has transpired in our world in recent times. As your U.S. Representative, I am totally committed to faithfully executing my responsibilities in Congress with a watchful eye on how each and every legislative measure and issue will affect the quality of life for Tennessee families.

We are a nation at war, fighting an enemy that has perpetrated horrific acts of terrorism on American soil. In the face of September 11, the people of America have unified and rallied together in unprecedented ways. Our resolve is strong and our determination unyielding. With United States military forces leading the way in Operation Enduring Freedom, we have made significant strides in the war on terrorism abroad. Yes, there is still much to do in the eradication of worldwide terrorism. Our enemy is cunning, but I remain optimistic that the U.S. will prevail and we will again live in a peaceful world free of terrorism.

As a nation, we face three major challenges. We must secure our homeland, we must secure our economic well being, and we must win the war on terrorism. In Congress, where I serve on both the Budget and the Transportation & Infrastructure Committees, I'll be addressing these issues head-on, and I will look to you for your input and suggestions. My web site has also been recently upgraded to provide more user friendly services and to give you the most up-to-date information on my legislative priorities and initiatives at <http://www.clement.house.gov>.

I hope you will contact my offices in Washington, D.C., Nashville, and Springfield to register your thoughts and concerns. I also welcome your e-mail at Bob.Clement@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Bob Clement

HOMELAND SECURITY



Clement converses about the journey to freedom for "Shelter Now" international relief workers Heather Mercer of Virginia and Dayna Curry of Nashville upon their safe return to Tennessee.

September 11, 2001 is a day that forever changed the United States of America. While the terrorist attacks attempted to divide us, we became even more united as one nation, under God, indivisible. Congress responded to the events of September 11 with efficiency and force. We immediately passed anti-terrorism legislation aimed at increasing security measures and preventing future attacks.

I voted in support of the USA PATRIOT Act that was signed into law by the President on October 26, 2001. This monumental legislation is a balanced bill that offers the tools that both local law enforcement officers and the Administration need to fight terrorism.

In the aftermath of September 11, a new spirit swept into Washington. Partisan politics were put aside in favor of an unprecedented unified effort to protect the American people. It is essential that all Americans stand behind the President in the fight against terrorism regardless of political ideology. Terrorism is poisonous to all societies; such terrorist acts are cowardly and selfish. We stand united in fighting those

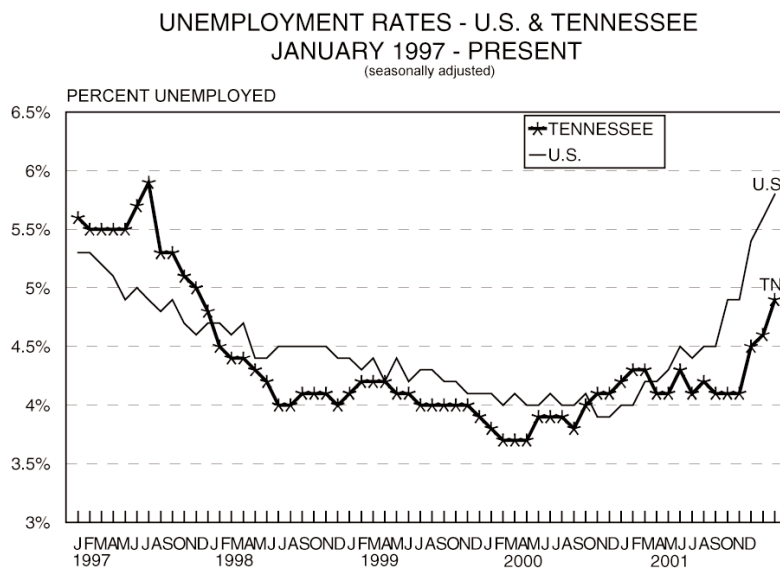
responsible for the September 11 attacks on America and we must keep marching forward to promote freedom and democracy for all people.

As part of the continuing war on terrorism, I am pleased to have been invited to participate in an upcoming public Department of Defense (DOD) briefing with Major General Cody, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, who recently returned from Afghanistan. The event, on the status of Operation Enduring Freedom, and of major impact and interest to our area, is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, from 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. at David Lipscomb University's Allen Arena, 3901 Granny White Pike in Nashville.

Participating in this forum will give me an excellent opportunity to gather the information I need as I hear from key personnel of our armed forces about the defense needs of the military and homeland security. This meeting will provide me with key facts so that in my role on the Budget Committee, I will be able to make informed decisions concerning necessary funding to carry out the mission of Operation Enduring Freedom and further combat terrorism by promoting freedom and democracy.

CREATING JOBS & IMPROVING THE ECONOMY

Our nation is in the midst of a recession as we continue to fight terrorism both at home and abroad. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I am committed to working for greater benefits for unemployed workers as they look to reenter the job market, especially those who lost their jobs as part of mass layoffs in the airline, auto, manufacturing and tourism industries.



Source: Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

In January 2001, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected a \$5.6 trillion, ten year surplus. However, most recent estimates indicate that the surplus is gone, and we are faced with deficit spending projected through 2005. While it is true that the recession and the events of September 11 have eroded the federal surplus, our government still must take steps to bolster the economy and create jobs.

Recently, I joined many of my colleagues on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee in introduc-

ing legislation to restore much of the transportation funding lost in the Bush Administration's FY 2003 budget. H.R. 3694, the Highway Funding Restoration Act, seeks to supplement the loss in funding for transportation purposes by adding an additional \$92 million, bringing the total transportation funding for Tennessee to \$569 million in 2003. This additional funding will bring 4,000 new jobs to the transportation industry in this state and help strengthen Tennessee's economy.

So far, Tennessee has fared well while America's unemployment rate has risen. I will continue to work hard to make certain that all Tennesseans have the opportunity to work. While America stands united in the war against terrorism, I remain firm in my resolve to bolster the economy and increase jobs for our state and our nation.

MEETING TENNESSEE'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

As a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, my goal is to have a vital, safe and secure transportation system in Tennessee and throughout America. Following the tragedy of 9/11, I supported critical changes to aviation security to restore confidence among travelers and to maintain a healthy aviation system. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act, passed on November 16th, 2001, improves aviation safety by instituting a number of new safeguards such as federalizing aviation screeners to screen all baggage and passengers, expanding the federal air marshal program and creating the Transportation Security Administration within the Department of Transportation.

As our highways and airports become increasingly clogged and congested, we must develop passenger rail as a viable alternative for travel. I have been working diligently with Amtrak to extend the Kentucky Cardinal from its current route between Chicago, IL, and Louisville, KY, to Nashville. Following a recent inspection trip that I hosted with Amtrak and CSX, I am pleased to report that Amtrak has officially stated its interest in returning service to the route and is currently working with CSX to evaluate specific elements of the route for passenger operations.

In 2002, I secured \$4million in federal funds for construction of the East Corridor commuter rail line from downtown Nashville to Lebanon bringing the total of federal dollars for the project to \$12 million. An additional \$8 million has been secured for future park and ride stations throughout the region. The project advanced to the "final design" stage last fall, with possible construction beginning in 2003-2004. Commuter rail will enrich our communities, focus smart development along the rail corridor, and benefit our quality of life and the environment.

Adding to this priority, I will push for legislation supporting high-speed passenger rail development, improved funding for Amtrak, better security for buses, ports, transit, and inland waterways, and the continued recovery of the airline industry throughout this Congress.



Clement, Mayor Dave Fisher, City Manager Paul Nutting, Assistant City Manager Gina Holt, and other officials participate in the long-awaited groundbreaking for the new Springfield Greenway. \$3 million in federal transportation funds was allocated for the project in 1999.

FAMILIES DESERVE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Millions of Americans face each day without healthcare coverage, often resulting in huge medical bills, daily stress, insufficient treatment for illness, or in some instances, even death. Health care policy affects our quality of life in many ways. In addition to the issue of adequate health insurance, our nation must address: Medicare reform, prescription drug coverage, solvency of the Social Security program, and effective patient protection legislation.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The President's 2003 budget includes \$190.2 billion over 10 years (2003-2012) to reform Medicare and provide immediate assistance to states providing prescription drug coverage to low-income seniors. While the President's budget does make some efforts to address the failures of the Medicare program, like last year's budget, it does not outline the planned Medicare reforms and

fails to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit for all seniors.

According to the Congressional Research Service, while 73% of Medicare beneficiaries had some prescription drug coverage in 1998, they paid approximately 44% of their total drug expenses out-of-pocket. I feel very strongly that our senior citizens and Medicare recipients should not have to choose between filling their medical prescriptions and having food on their tables. The cost of prescription drugs has skyrocketed, proving that we need a comprehensive approach to prescription drug coverage now more than ever. Unfortunately,



Education and health care were among the topics of concern during a recent town hall meeting at the East Community Center on Woodland Street in East Nashville.

the prescription drug benefit proposed by the President's budget is inadequate. Until we can guarantee prescription drug coverage for all Medicare beneficiaries at affordable prices, we have not done all that we can do to assist the elderly in this nation.

PATIENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION

I believe that Americans deserve protections to ensure that they receive timely access to medical care and information, so I support a "patients' bill of rights" that will provide real patient protections. Patients should be able to sue HMOs in state courts for decisions to deny care that result in injury or death, and insurance companies should be held accountable for decisions that result in harm to patients. At the same time, protections should be in place to shield employers from liability as long as they are not involved in making decisions that result in personal injury or wrongful death.

HELPING THE UNINSURED

With the downturn in the economy, more and more working people and the unemployed do not have health insurance. More than 2.2 million Americans lost their health insurance coverage in 2001, and some 39 million Americans reported they were uninsured in 2000 – staggering figures when added together. Uninsured workers don't represent only the unemployed. In fact, 8 of 10 uninsured Americans have a job, but earn a low-wage income. Many employers can't afford to provide health benefits, or workers themselves cannot afford premiums. Working men and women deserve to have health coverage, and I will continue to look for bipartisan, cooperative ways to solve these problems.

MEET YOUR CONGRESSMAN

Congressman Bob Clement will be available to meet with you concerning questions about federal agencies and legislative matters, at the following locations in Davidson and Robertson counties on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26-27, 2002. The schedule follows below:

TUESDAY • MARCH 26, 2002

- 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Orlinda Public Library
1203 East Church Street, Orlinda, 37141
- 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Springfield Wal-Mart
3556 Tom Austin Highway, Springfield, 37172
- 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Goodlettsville City Hall
105 Main Street, Goodlettsville, 37072
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Madison Public Library
610 Gallatin Pike South, Madison, 37115
- 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hadley Park Senior Citizens Center
1029 28th Avenue North, Hadley Park, 37208

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 27, 2002

- 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Donelson/Hermitage Senior Citizens Center
108 Donelson Pike, Donelson, 37214
- 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Antioch Public Library
2325 Hickory Highlands, Antioch, 37013
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Woodbine Community Center
222 Oriel Avenue, Woodbine, 37210
- 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Green Hills Public Library
3701 Benham Avenue, Green Hills, 37215
- 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bellevue Community Center
656 Colice Jeanne Road, Bellevue, 37221

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I want to keep the lines of communication open via phone, fax, mail and e-mail. For the time being, the best way to send correspondence to me through the U.S. mail is to my main District office location. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Please feel free to contact me anytime I can be of assistance.

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